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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Rail and Road Movements in the Dessau-Alton Area.

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1C

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 15 June 1951

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. The loading of 15 tanks, including tank No 112, was observed at the Dessau (M 52/E 17) freight yard in the morning of 17 May 1951. A railroadman stated that 35 more tanks were already loaded on the same train.

2. A train of 40 cars carrying 10 x 37-mm AA guns and various other materiel arrived at the Dessau freight yard in the evening of 17 May. It came from the direction of Rossau.

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3. A unit with an unknown number of troops from Rossau with 6 x 37-mm AA guns; 8 sedans, each with a heavy machine gun on tripod; and 30 trucks, was loaded on 9 boxcars and an undetermined number of flatcars at the Dessau railroad station in the afternoon of 18 May. The trucks had the following

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4. A train of about 50 cars, including 15 cars loaded with a truck and a 120-mm mortar each, were standing at the Dessau freight yard in the afternoon of 18 May.

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6. Engineer troops with pontoons, steel-bridge equipment, trucks with hoists, trucks, and amphibious cars, including one with the and others were loaded in Dessau in the afternoon of 19 May.

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7. A train of eight boxcars and an unidentified number of flatcars was loaded with troops and trucks with [REDACTED] at the Dessau railroad station in the same afternoon. The troops had come from Rosslau.

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8. An engineer unit which was loaded in Rosslau at noon on 20 May had 11 trucks with [REDACTED] with a field kitchen, 1 small amphibious [REDACTED] and 8 large amphibious cars with numbers of the [REDACTED]. Another train observed at the station consisted of 29 cars which carried 20 trucks with [REDACTED] 1 car with a motor boat, 7 cars with iron bridge sections, and 4 cars with troops.

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9. Vehicles moving toward Rosslau by road included truck [REDACTED] carrying a motor-boat in the evening of 17 May; and 5 sedans with numbers of [REDACTED] in the afternoon of 18 May. The sedans were occupied by high-ranking officers.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. 25X1C

Paragraph 2: Unidentified AAA unit of the Eighth Gds Army

Paragraph 3: 21st Gds Mecz Div.

Paragraph 4: Hq XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps and 21st Gds Mecz Div.

Paragraph 5: Headquarters engineer unit of the Eighth Gds Army.

Paragraph 6: 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

Paragraph 7: 21st Gds Mecz Div.

Paragraph 8: Engineer units of the GOFG from Potsdam. The two shipments were previously reported by another source. [REDACTED]

Paragraph 9: Truck of the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GOFG in Rosslau and sedans of the Hq Second Gds Mecz Army and headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army.

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Paragraph 10: Motor transport unit of the GOFG.

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Comment. The initial stages of the loading operations fairly definitely indicate that the engineer exercise in the Dessau-Aken area, which began on 6 May, ended on 17 May. However, it cannot be determined whether the units returned to their posts or moved to troop training grounds. All reports on this exercise indicate that GOFG units involved included: the 36th Pon Bridge Regt from Dessau-Rossau; elements of the unidentified engineer regiment from Potsdam; the unidentified artillery division from Potsdam; and an unidentified motor transport unit. Eighth Gds Army components involved in the exercise included army headquarters engineer, artillery, AAA, and rear service units; the Hq XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps and corps headquarters units; headquarters units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps; most of the components of the 21st Gds Mecz Div; and engineer components of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. Some officers of the Second and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies probably attended the exercise as observers.

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Comment. There has been conflicting information on troops in the barracks installation in Rossau-Meinsdorf since early May 1951. It is believed that the components of the 7th Gds Tank Div from the installation moved to Letzling Heath and that the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GOFG participated in the engineer exercise at Aken. However, there is a possibility that other units involved in the engineer exercise may have been temporarily quartered in the installation. [REDACTED]

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